



# Proposed Middle Bald Mountain Radio Communications Facility

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**Public Meeting, November 8, 2007**

# Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

- **Discuss the draft alternatives for the proposed radio communications facility on Middle Bald Mountain**
- **Address your questions and obtain your written comments and suggestions about the draft alternatives**

# **Why is the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) involved?**

**Larimer County applied for a radio communications facility on  
Middle Bald Mountain (MBM)**



**MBM is within the boundaries of Roosevelt National Forest**



**In order to construct and operate a communications facility  
on USFS property, the County needs a  
Special Use Authorization**



**Before issuing an authorization,  
the USFS must go through the NEPA process**

# What is NEPA?

## National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

NEPA requires all Federal agencies to:

- Assess the environmental impacts of major Federal actions,
- Consider the environmental impacts in making decisions,
- Disclose the environmental impacts to the public and the decision maker.

# **NEPA Process Overview**

- **Public and agency scoping period**
  - **Analysis of scoping comments**
  - **Development of Alternatives**
- **Analysis of Environmental Impacts**
- **Preparation of NEPA document (EA or EIS)**
  - **Public review of NEPA document**
    - **Analysis of public comment**
  - **Decision**

# Radio Communications Systems

## VHF

**(very high frequency)**

- System currently being used by public service agencies in the County
- New facilities on MBM would provide more reliable radio signal coverage in the Poudre Canyon

## 800 MHz/ DTR

**(digital trunked radio)**

- System used by the State of Colorado
- Larimer County is in the process of switching over from VHF to 800 MHz
- Would allow the County to directly communicate with State and other emergency service agencies

\*Both signals rely on line of sight and microwave relay towers.

# Proposed Action

**Site Location: Middle Bald Mountain**

**Site Designation: Government Use Only**

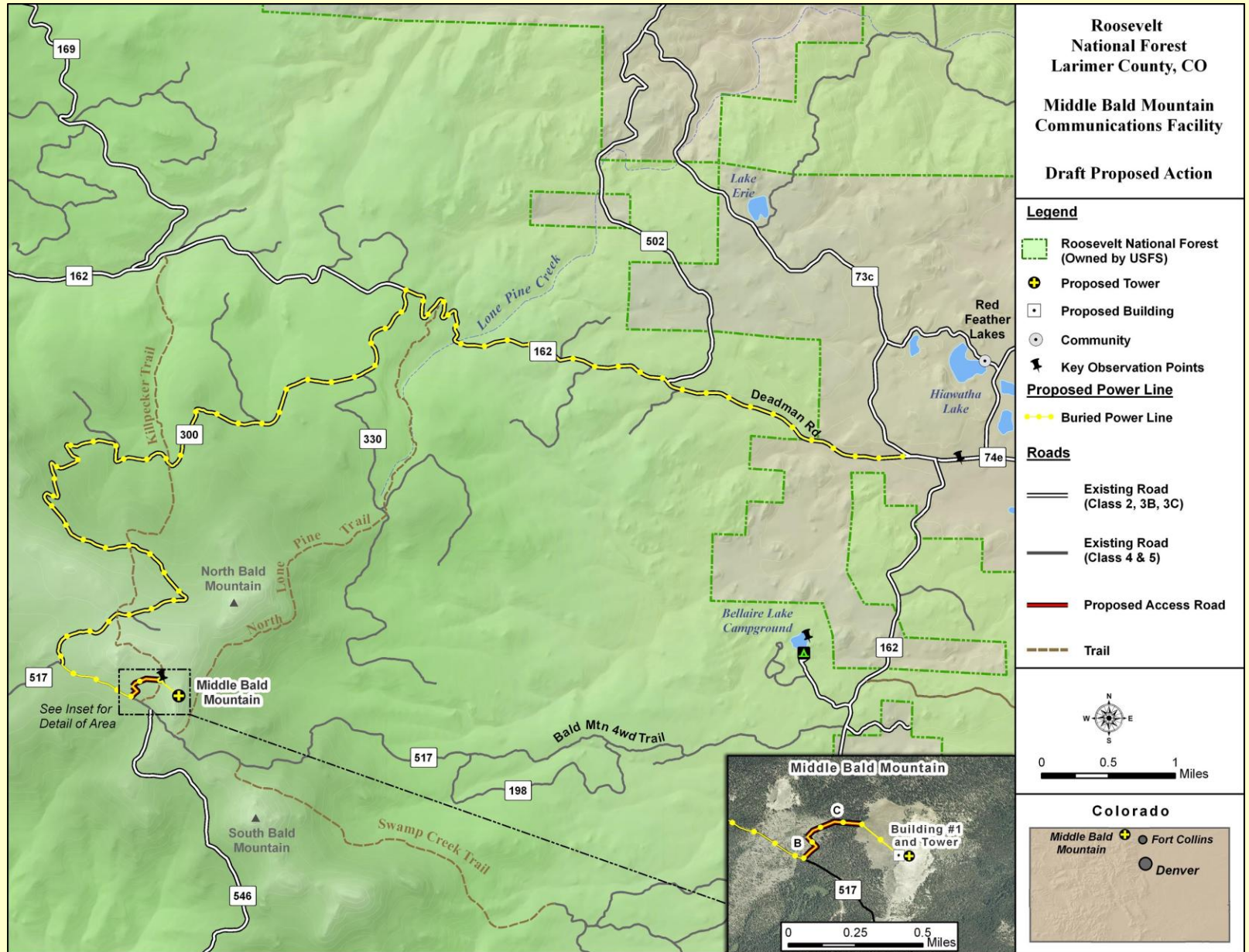
## Project Components:

- **Radio Tower**
- **Equipment Building**
- **Access Road**
- **Powerline**





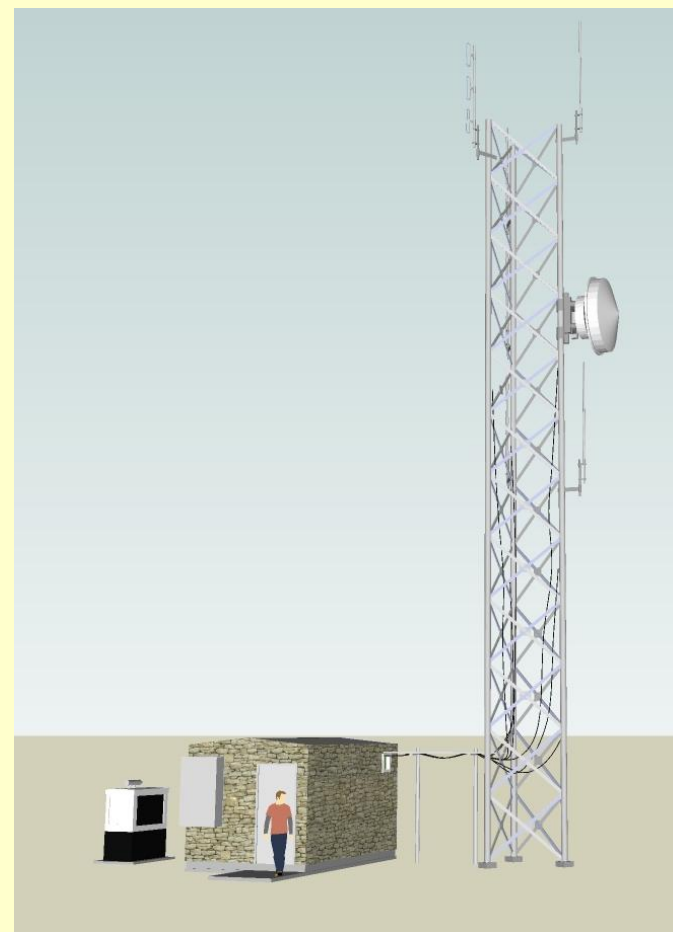
# Map of Proposed Action





# Tower Configuration

- 60' 3-legged steel lattice tower
- Non-reflective
- Located next to building #1
- Weighted with concrete anchoring
- 40' of tower visible above summit



# Building Design and Location

- Rectangular, 160 square foot building (Approximately 10' x 16')
- Designed to blend with site surroundings
- Location #1 (on natural ledge just below summit)

# Additional Details

- Access Route:**
- Level 2 road from NFSR 517 to treeline on routes B & C
  - Temporary load spreading mats across meadow
- Power Source:**
- Electric
  - Diesel generator backup
- Powerline Route:**
- Bury powerline in center of Deadman Road, then under NFSR 300, NFSR 517, and access roads B and C
  - Bury across meadow to facility

# Example of Generator



# Resources Included in Impact Analysis

- Visual resources
- Recreation
- Cultural resources
- Vegetation
- Wildlife / Fisheries
- Soils
- Hydrology
- Air quality
- Soundscape





# Next Steps

- **Analyze public comments on draft alternatives. (December)**
- **Finalize Proposed Action and other alternatives. (December)**
- **Prepare reports describing and analyzing impacts to individual resources. (December-February)**
- **Draft a NEPA document for USFS internal review and decide whether to prepare an EA or EIS. (March/April)**
- **Release the finalized NEPA document for public review and comment. (May/June)**
- **Publish decision. (July/August)**

# **Your Role**

- **Ask clarifying questions about the draft alternatives.**
- **Provide written comments, ideas and concerns about the alternatives presented this evening.**
- **Add your name to our mailing list if you wish.**
- **Stay involved in the planning process.**  
(Review and Comment on the Environmental Document.)

# Questions?



[www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf/projects/ea-projects/clrd/commsite/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf/projects/ea-projects/clrd/commsite/index.shtml)

# Rationale for Proposing Tower near Building







*Radio antenna near the summit of Twin Sisters Mountain*